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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of managing a network device, co	comprising:
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providing a command-line interface application programming interface (CLI-API)

3 compatible with a command-line interface (CLI) of the network device;

receiving an instruction from an application configured to call one or more routines in the CLI application programming interface; and

generating at least one command in response to receiving instructions from the application wherein the at least one command is compatible with the CLI of the network device.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the CLI-API is implemented as one or more object-oriented classes and the one or more routines are method calls in the one or more object-oriented classes.
- 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the class and methods are compatible with the Java object-oriented programming language.
- 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more object-oriented classes are selected from a set of classes including a session management class, an input-output class, a configuration class, a macro-generation class, and other classes.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one command in the CLI of the network device is capable of performing one or more network management operations selected from a set of operations including configuring a network device, gathering information on network interfaces on a network device, bringing a network device up or down on a network, and downloading a new image to a network device.
- 6. A network system having network management capabilities, comprising:
 a non-application enabled network device having a command line interface (CLI)
 capable of controlling one or more network management features of the non-application
 enabled network device; and
 an application-enabled network device capable of executing applications that was

an application-enabled network device capable of executing applications that use a command-line interface application programming interface (CLI-API) to generate one or

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- more commands compatible with the CLI of the non-application enabled network device and transmit the one or more commands to the non-application enabled network device over the network for execution.
 - 7. The network system of claim 6, wherein the application-enabled network device is capable of processing object-oriented applications compatible with the Java programming language.
 - 8. The network system of claim 6, wherein a remote serial command line interface (RS-CLI) device connected between the network and the non-application enabled network device receives an application over the network from the application-enabled network device, executes the application and produces commands transmitted over a serial connection connected to the non-application enabled network device wherein the commands are compatible with the CLI on the non-application enabled network device.
 - 9. The network of claim 8, wherein the RS-CLI device comprises, a storage device capable of storing an instruction; a network port capable of processing a network protocol stack and connected to the network;
 - a serial port capable of processing a serial protocol and connected to the nonapplication enabled network device; and
 - a processor capable of processing the instruction stored in the storage area of the RS-CLI device that at least generates a command compatible with a CLI of a network device in response to processing the instruction stored in the storage area.
 - 10. The RS-CLI device of claim 8, wherein the instruction stored in the storage area is from a software component selected from a set of software components including an operating system, an object-oriented component, a virtual machine, and a network protocol stack.
- 1 1. A remote serial command-line interface (RS-CLI) device comprising:
 2 a storage device capable of storing an instruction;
 3 a network port capable of being connected to the network and capable of processing a

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- 4 network protocol stack in addition to receiving the instruction;
- a serial port capable of processing a serial protocol and capable of being connected to the non-application enabled network device; and
- a processor capable of processing the instruction stored in the storage area of the RS-CLI device that at least generates a command compatible with a CLI of the non-application enabled network device in response to processing the instruction stored in the storage area.
 - 12. The RS-CLI device of claim 11, wherein the instruction in the storage area is from a software component stored in the storage area and selected from a set of software components including an operating system, an object-oriented component, a virtual machine, a network protocol stack, and an object-oriented application.
 - 13. A method of managing a network device, comprising:

receiving an application having instructions compatible with a command-line interface application programming interface (CLI-API) configured to work with a command-line interface (CLI) of the network device;

creating CLI commands capable of controlling the network device in response to processing one or more of the instructions compatible with the CLI-API;

transmitting the CLI commands created by the CLI-API over a network to the network device; and

processing the CLI commands on the network device.

- 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of processing the CLI commands on the network device manages one or more aspects of the operation of the network device.
- 1 15. The method of claim 13, further comprising,
 2 providing results from the processing of the CLI commands on the network
 3 device over the network and to the application.
- 1 16. The method of claim 13, wherein the application is executed on an
 2 application-enabled network device and the network device is a non-application enabled
 3 network device having a CLI.
 - 17. The method of claim 13, wherein the application enabled network device is

- 2 capable of processing Java object-oriented instructions.
 - 18. An apparatus for managing a non-application enabled network device, comprising:

an application-enabled network device configured to receive an application having instructions compatible with a command-line interface application programming interface (CLI-API) that works with a command-line interface (CLI) of the non-application enabled network device;

a processor associated with the application-enabled network device that executes the application and creates CLI commands in response to processing one or more of the instructions compatible with the CLI-API wherein the commands are capable of controlling the non-application enabled network device; and

a network interface on the application-enabled network device that transmits the CLI commands created by the CLI-API over a network for processing by the non-application enabled network device.

- 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the CLI commands created on the application-enabled network device are capable of controlling one or more aspects of the operation of the non-application enabled network device.
- 20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the application-enabled network device receives results over the network from the processing of the CLI commands on the non-application enabled network device.
- 21. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the application-enabled network device can process Java object-oriented instructions.